

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

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P 232035Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5353

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7128

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR, US, SCUL

SUBJECT: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REF: STATE 235205

1. PROMINENT US LAWYER JAMES ST. CLAIR, CONTRACTED BY HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION, CONCLUDES SIX-DAY VISIT TO CHILE OCTOBER 23. IN WRAP-UP SESSION WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS THIS MORNING, ST. CLAIR REPORTED THAT, AS RESULT OF HIS INTERVIEW WITH MIN ED TRONCOSO EVENING OCTOBER 22, THERE IS NOW ORAL AGREEMENT TO BEGIN PROCESS OF RETURN OF ST. GEORGES SCHOOL TO HOLY CROSS, STARTING IN PERIOD NOVEMBER 15-30 OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER. AN INTERIM RECTOR CHOSEN BY HOLY CROSS (FATHER D'AUTREMONT) WILL BE APPOINTED AND ACT JOINTLY WITH MILITARY INTERVENTOR (COMANDANTE VERDUGO, WHO IS REPORTEDLY UP FOR NORMAL TRANSFER IN JANUARY). AUXILIARY BISHOP VALECH OF CARDINAL'S ENTOURAGE WILL ACT AS "GUARANTOR" OF THIS AGREEMENT, APPARENTLY IN SENSE THAT HE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO WORK OUT PROBLEMS WITH PARTIES AS THEY ARISE. ACCORDING TO ST. CLAIR, MINISTER STRESSED THIS AGREEMENT CANNOT BE PUT IN WRITING "BECAUSE WE HAVE OUR OWN PROBLEMS," BUT NOTED THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET APPROVES OF IT.

2. ST. CLAIR EARLIER MET TWICE WITH "MEDIATOR" JULIO PHILIPPI AND ALSO WITH CARDINAL SILVA AND PAPAL NUNCIO. ST. CLAIR IS ACUTELY AWARE OF SHARPLY DIVERGENT VIEWS OF GOC AND HOLY CROSS, AND SAID HE WILL IMPRESS UPON FATHER HESBURGH AND HOLY CROSS LEADERS IN U.S. WHAT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICALLY FEASIBLE IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE AND WHAT IS NOT.

3. COMMENT: ST. CLAIR IS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT GENUINE GOOD FAITH EXISTS IN GOC SIDE AND THAT PRESENT AGREEMENT IS BEST THAT COULD BE OBTAINED. HOWEVER, HE ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT SEEING IS BELIEVING AND THAT INNUMERABLE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS LIE IN THE WAY OF FULL RESUMPTION OF CONTROL BY HOLY CROSS OVER THE SCHOOL. POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCHOOLS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA07128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750373-0464
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751024/aaaaavcz.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 235205
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, CI, US, (SA CLAIR, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006